

AAFES changes overseas gasoline pricing

CAMP FOSTER, Korea – Effective now, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will implement one overseas gas price policy. Under the new policy, the sell prices for gasoline and diesel fuel are established by grade, based on the Department of Energy averages from the previous month, plus each region's incremental dispensing costs.

The purpose of the new policy is to have a consistent pricing policy that minimizes big price fluctuations from year to year. Gasoline is priced in the world market daily. As such, having a yearlong price is antiquated and simply not realistic. This is the reason for the big fluctuations seen in the past, i.e. (you need to fill in here increase from last year) cent last year. The new policy will minimize that effect.

"Though our first price adjustment under this new policy results in a price increase, we feel over time this policy will benefit our customers by allowing us to provide cost reductions much quicker than the old policy," said Col. Les Chang, AAFES Pacific Region commander.

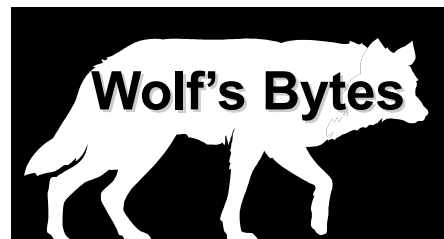
The gas prices for the remainder of May will be \$1.67 for regular unleaded, \$1.85 for premium and \$1.55 for diesel. The current prices are \$1.56 for regular gasoline, \$1.61 for premium and \$1.46 for diesel. "The prices will be adjusted up or down on the first of each month hereafter," said Chang.

In the past, each AAFES region (Pacific and Europe) determined overseas gasoline prices. The price and frequency of change varied between the regions, usually depending on local situations. "For example, in Korea, we changed the price with each purchase," said Chang. "In Japan, however, the price was fixed once a year by contract, and not adjusted as prices dropped or raised in the stateside market," said Chang.

Today, with American Forces Network, cable television and the Internet keeping people overseas informed of what's happening stateside, our customers may expect prices to rise and fall depending on what they hear is the trend in the states. With that in mind, "AAFES determined that it needed one consistent overseas gasoline pricing policy, to include Europe, that would make these adjustments," said Chang.

"This new policy should eliminate large price fluctuations and provide timely price reductions when possible," said Chang.

"It's important for our customers to know that we strive to provide the best products and services at the best prices possible," said Chang. "We're confident that this new pricing policy will do that by providing more consistent and timely pricing adjustments."



I've had about a week to take a look around the Wolf Pack, and let me tell you, it's lived up to my every expectation, and then some.

One aspect that really has stood out is the quality of people stationed here. It is apparent the Wolf Pack has tremendous pride in the mission, and each person is motivated to accomplish his or her specific role in the mission. That was also the case when I was stationed here as a captain. However, the Wolf Pack pride seems even stronger today.

No other base or assignment in the Air Force has a mission quite comparable to the Wolf Pack mission. Without a doubt, you'll never experience the same sense of camaraderie, spirit and mission satisfaction anywhere else.

While the mission takes up a lot of our time and focus, let's not forget the sacrifices made by family members back home. Without the support of the family network, focusing on and accomplishing the mission becomes increasingly more difficult. Whether you're married or single, the people you left behind for one year back home deserve as much credit as you serving over here.

Take the time to thank the parents worrying about how you're handling the pressure and daily stressors, the spouse who's having to handle the additional responsibilities of running the household and taking care of children, and even close friends who are missing your companionship. All deserve recognition and thanks.

Each of you and your families, by accepting an assignment to the Wolf Pack, epitomize the Air Force core value of Service Before Self. In 12 months, you'll do more things here on both a professional and personal level. However, to gain that sense of satisfaction takes a commitment to the mission and to your family back home.

By taking the time to thank them for their support and showing them that you miss them by using those morale calls, sending e-mails or crafting a handwritten note, it will show you care and value the relationship. The time you take to strengthen the relationships back home will be time well spent.

As I've said before, it's great to be back at the Wolf Pack, and I'm looking forward to a year of memorable experiences, friendships and achievements. I'm impressed and I'm eager to continue and contribute to the 8th Fighter Wing's legacy of excellence. May God have mercy on the Wolf Pack's prey!

DeCA eliminates Social Security numbers on checks

FORT LEE, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency will no longer require customers to annotate their Social Security numbers on checks when paying for groceries. It's another example of how the commissary is listening to customers' concerns.

"Our customers are telling us they are increasingly concerned about disclosing personal information on their checks that may result in 'identity theft,' violations of personal privacy, fraud or personal financial loss. We are listening to our patrons and are taking the steps needed to reduce their exposure to these risks," said Air Force Col. Ed Jones, DeCA's comptroller.

DeCA's strategic plan directs employees to listen to customers and make it easier for them to use their

commissary benefit. But sometimes customer concerns go beyond store hours and product selection. As national anxiety over identity theft mounted and various civilian retailers stopped asking for SSNs, military shoppers asked DeCA to change too.

"There is a very low probability of customers having their identities stolen or their Social Security numbers misappropriated at a DeCA commissary," said Fred Stein, DeCA's security officer. "Our customers' checks are safeguarded like cash and remain under positive control of appropriate commissary personnel until they are deposited in the bank."

But just to be sure, DeCA worked hard to change its systems. This means that commissary patrons will no longer

be required to show a SSN on the front of their personal check. It also means that the agency is modifying its cash register system to stop printing SSNs on the back of checks. Most importantly it means that DeCA has succeeded in developing a closed system to safely retain the SSN to comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines for collecting bad check information. The cashier will enter this information when the customer's identification is checked at the register.

"The results of this reengineered business process will ensure transaction confidentiality and appropriate audit trails are maintained with the assurance that individual identity is protected," said John Goodman, DeCA's program manager for the cash register system.

Pride of the Pack



Job: 80th Fighter Squadron

Hometown: Joliet, Ill.

Follow-on: Ramstein, Germany

Family: Wife, Maureen; daughter, Carolina; and son, Isael

Hobbies: Racquetball and soccer

Words of wisdom: "Everything has a solution except death."

The Pride of the Pack is nominated by his or her commander, first sergeant or supervisor, or any Wolf Pack member, for outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the mission. To nominate a Wolf Pack member, send a nomination to the individual's group commander.



Staff Sgt. Isael Perez